



Sustainability Commission

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Sustainability Commission Staff Report October 17, 2012

City Activities

Sustainable purchasing

City of Eugene purchasing staff is collaborating with other Eugene/Springfield metro agencies to share information and glean strategies for assisting with sustainable purchasing activities. In collaboration with EWEB, Heather Nelson, Sustainable Purchasing Analyst, set up a forum in September of interested agencies including University of Oregon, City of Springfield, Lane County School District 4J, Springfield School District, Lane Transit District and Springfield Utility Board to discuss sustainable public procurement. The intent of the forum is to increase regional collaboration, sharing of information and strategies, and to promote cross-agency networking to find common solutions.

On a related note, the University of Oregon is hosting a two-part workshop on sustainable purchasing on October 31 and November 8. Through lectures, discussions, and short assignments, this workshop will help participants understand the key concepts of green purchasing. The course content includes environmental and social impacts of consumption, interpreting eco-labels, using life-cycle assessments and triple-bottom-line decision making, and a follow-up lunch to review a take-home assignment. The cost of the workshop is \$150. For more details, contact Steve Mital: smital@uoregon.edu; 541-346-0709.



Green Purchasing
Training.pdf

Climate Leadership Academy

A team from Eugene participated in the second iteration of the *Climate Leadership Academy on Adaptation and Resilience* organized by the Institute for Sustainable Communities. Communities from across the US and Canada participated in the three-day event. The academy focused on learning from peers in other communities to uncover successful strategies for climate adaptation – those actions necessary to help our community prepare for the impacts resulting from warmer global temperatures. Eugene's team included:

- Michelle Cahill, Director of Wastewater Division, City of Eugene Public Works
- Dr. Patrick Luedtke, Public Health Officer, Lane County Public Health
- Todd Simmons, Electric Transmission and Distribution Operations Manager, EWEB
- Josh Bruce, Interim Director, Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience
- Matt McRae, Climate and Energy Analyst, City of Eugene

Eugene 2010 Internal Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Staff has recently completed a comprehensive inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from the City of Eugene internal government operations. This is the second such inventory to be completed and includes emissions for 2010 – the first inventory reported on internal emissions from 2000 and 2005. Overall, the total emissions from scope 1 and 2, those resulting from burning fossil fuels and consuming electricity, grew slightly between 2005 and 2010. There are two significant changes in this latest inventory:

- Scope 3 emissions - those resulting from purchased goods and materials - are more fully accounted for and incorporated into the inventory.

- The emissions factor used to calculate the amount of emissions associated with electricity consumption has been changed from the local (EWEB) emissions factor to the regional (Northwest Power Pool) emissions factor. This change means programs that use large amounts of electricity, such as street lights, appear to be a more significant issue than previously assumed.

The complete internal GHG inventory will be sent to commissioners as soon as it is finalized. The report will also be available online at [Eugene, OR Website - Climate Change and Energy Use](#).

Sustainability directors

Babe O'Sullivan joined other municipal sustainability directors last week for the annual meeting of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN). Roughly 150 staff from cities across the US and Canada are part of the network which promotes collaboration and learning within the profession. Some program highlights included:

- Panel discussion on local food policy initiatives.
- Breakout sessions on a wide variety of issues such as energy efficiency programs, sustainability metrics, greenhouse gas inventory methodology and sustainable business development.
- Innovation grant opportunities for collaborating cities.
- Pre-conference workshop on EcoDistricts.

Other News

Coal trains

Council conducted a work session on October 8 with a panel of experts to discuss the proposed resolution on transporting coal through Eugene by train. Panelists included:

- Mayor Keith Tymchuk, Reedsport
- Ross MacFarlane, Climate Solutions
- Dr. Andy Harris, Physicians for Social Responsibility
- David Koch, Port of Coos Bay

Action on the resolution is scheduled for October 22 (see details below). Related media coverage: [Coal train debate before Eugene City Council: jobs vs. environment | Speakers discuss the pros and cons of shipping the fuel source through Eugene](#)

Lane County is considering a resolution in support of coal transport by train to the Coos Bay terminal. The resolution will come up for discussion and a possible vote on Oct. 17. For related media coverage see: <http://www.registerguard.com/web/news/cityregion/28844478-41/coal-public-board-commissioners-trains.html.csp>

Commission Items

Work plan development

The commission held its annual work-planning retreat September 29 at the Hilyard Community Center to develop a FY 13 work plan. Further refinement of the work plan is scheduled during the October monthly commission meeting and a final work plan will be brought to City Council for approval in November.

Upcoming Meetings

Oct. 17: 5:30 p.m. – monthly commission meeting, Saul Room, Atrium Building

Oct. 22: 7:30 – Council meeting to take action on coal trains resolution (Resolution 5065) and single-use bag ordinance (Council Bill 5078), Public Library, Bascom-Tykeson Room.

Announcements

UO Fireside conversation series

Hosted by UO Environmental and Natural Resources Law program: <http://enr.uoregon.edu/firesides12-13/>

2012 International EcoDistrict Summit

October 23-26

Portland State University, Smith Center, 3rd Floor

1825 SW Broadway Portland, OR 97201

Sponsored by the Portland Sustainability Institute

<http://ecodistrictssummit.com/>

EPA webinar series

EPA's *Materials Management through Sustainable Consumption Webinar Series* is designed to provide examples of communities around the US and internationally that are reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and creating more sustainable patterns of consumption. <http://bit.ly/sustainableconsumption>. To register for the series, click here <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/469476793>.